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By: **Senators Harris, Brinkley, Colburn, Green, Greenip, Hooper, Jacobs, Mooney, Stoltzfus, and Stone**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2003

Assigned to: Rules

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A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Abortifacient Conscience Act**

3 FOR the purpose of prohibiting a person from being required to perform, participate  
4 in, or refer to any source a medical procedure that results in the destruction of a  
5 fertilized ovum; and generally relating to a person refusing to perform or refer a  
6 medical procedure.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
8 Article - Health - General  
9 Section 20-214(a)  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (2000 Replacement Volume and 2002 Supplement)

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
13 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

14 **Article - Health - General**

15 20-214.

16 (a) (1) A person may not be required to perform or participate in, or refer to  
17 any source for, any medical procedure that results in artificial insemination,  
18 sterilization, [or] termination of pregnancy, OR DESTRUCTION OF A FERTILIZED  
19 OVUM.

20 (2) The refusal of a person to perform or participate in, or refer to a  
21 source for, these medical procedures may not be a basis for:

- 22 (i) Civil liability to another person; or
- 23 (ii) Disciplinary or other recriminatory action against the person.

24 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
25 October 1, 2003.